Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2024 12:15:54 AM
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Title:
Comments: It is unfortunate that your timeline for current comments as explained above seems to prohibit comments now, if previous correspondence from me was not forthcoming. As a Federal Agency, the USFS has the responsibility to acknowledge that their decisions in one area of the county has ramifications across the nation to everyone, regardless of their locale. Regardless, my comments are as follows: I lived in June Lake for over 33 years, raised my family there and did family recreatiion all over Mono County, including areas where the wild horses could be seen and enjoyed outside of the Montgomery range area. The degredation of the land your EIR addresses that you attribute to ranging wild horses is secondary only to the damage to the land caused by ranging cattle. The emphasis on protecting habitat from these spectacular, unique and independent 4 legged animals as opposed to the damage done through the cheap range leases the USFS and BLM issues to ranchers is short sighted. Tourism dollars is what sustains the economy of Mono County, not dollars derived from leasing land for range cattle. Wild horses are sought out across the vast vistas of the County by tourists as well as locals and they are an inherently part of the wild nature of why people keep coming to the towns up and down the Eastern Escarpment. The local wild horses are more native to Mono County than cows, and while watering holes show degredation evidence of their need for water, the land over time repairs itself as is needed. You can't herd wild animals like horses into confined fenceless areas any more than you can confine mountain lions, bears or coyotes. History has shown that attempting to "manage" wild animals to meet quota expectations is a folly as nature all on its own acts far more efficiently at balancing species in competing eco-systems. I'm really sorry that this action is being taken to remove a portion of the local wild horse population into an environment that will so radically change the quality of their existence. Feeding wild horses in a corral into perpetuity is a sad way to treat these spectacular animals that have endured so much.